(c) whether this mechanisation programme will]ead to displacement of a large number of coir workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM); (a) to (c) The policy of the Government of India is to modernise and improve the productivity of the coir industry. Approach towards mechanisation differs from State to State. Entrepreneurs in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are inclined towards use of mechanical devices. The Coir Board has proposed to the Government of Kerala to formulate a suitable scheme for modernisation and for introducing productivity aids by the COIRFED.

Demand and suppy of Benzene

3006. SHRI V. NARAYANASWAMY: VfiU the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleas-erf to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to import Benzene as domestic pro-doction is not enough to meet the market demand;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of Benzene imported during the years, 1986-87 and 1987-88 and what are the production and comsumption figures for the same period; and

(c) what is the projected demand for the years 1988-89 and 1989-90 and in which manner Government propose to meet this demand?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) (a) *to* (c) The projected demand of Benzene in 1988-89 and 1989-90 is marginally higher than its anticipated domestic availability. The deficit is proposed to be covered through imports.

The domestic production of benzene during 1986-87 and 1987-88 was around 1,00,000 MT and 1,50,000 MT respectively and wag adequate to meet the indigenous requirement.

Number of Bio-Gas Plants

2007. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased tto state;

(a) whether efforts have been made by Government to set up more and more biogas plants in the country;

(b) if so, the number of bio-gas plants set up in different States so far during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to popularise the scheme of setting up of biogas plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): 00 Yes, Sir.

(b) A cumulative total of over 6.06 lakh family type bio-gas plants are reported to have been set up in different States/Union Territories during the period 1985-86 to 1988-89 (upto 30th Sept. 88) under the National Project for Biogas Development.

(c) To popularise the biogas programme the Government has taken a number of steps, such as provision of Central subsidy, organisation of training courses for village masons and technicians in the construction and maintenance of biogas plants, Users' training courses, turn-kaq job fee with two years' free maintenance warranty period, cash incentives to promoters, repair and maintenance scheme, establishment of Regional Biogas Training and Development Centres, publicity and extension. Arrangements are being made for supply of levy cement and steel on priority basis. Financing institutions are also providing loaning facilities.

महाराष्ट्र की विद्युत योजना

2008. श्री विश्वास राव रामराव पाटिल : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान महाराष्ट्र राज्य के संबंध में